

## DRAWINGS ATTACHED

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## (54) IMPROVEMENTS IN OR RELATING TO CARRIER BAGS

- (71) I, KARL GOTZE trading as NORD-WEST-PAPIERWERKE KARL GOTZE, a German Citizen, of 5253 Lindlar, Bezirk Köln, Germany, do hereby declare the invention, for which I pray that a patent may be granted to me, and the method by which it is to be performed, to be particularly described in and by the following statement:—
- 5 This invention relates to carrier bags. Gusseted or block-bottom bags, made from paper, synthetic plastics material and the like, are known in various types and are regularly used for packing up textiles or other goods. Above all, bags of this kind are known which are equipped with a handle in the region of the upper edge of the bag. However, in most of the known carrier bags the handle consists merely of a slotted opening punched out in the broad sides of the bag. Since it must be possible to close up the bags, for example against rain, dust, and the like, they are frequently folded over underneath the upper edge of the bag, so that the handle opening must pass through at least four layers of plastics or paper. Added to this is the fact that a reinforcement of the opening is sometimes provided, in the form of cardboard strengthening pieces stuck to the inside, so that the handle openings have to be punched out of these reinforcing pieces also. This type of bag which is usual in commerce has in particular the disadvantage that in spite of the cardboard reinforcements in the handle zone the openings easily tear, and cause considerable difficulty in carrying relatively large bags. In principle it is also known that supplementary handles for the carrier bags can be provided, so as to avoid the danger of tearing in the handle zone. According to a proposal of the Applicant, a carrier bag of this kind has a special feature of a handle which can be inserted into the handle opening, this handle consisting of a bent piece with holding claws arranged near its ends for the bag. This type of construction has, in itself, proved of value, but needs improving in so far as the supplementary handle being loose, can easily be lost, serving in practice only as a hanger for the bag, and is not being permanently fastened to it.
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- The object of the present invention is to create a carrier bag which can, without difficulty and also by using machine methods, be provided with a handle which cannot be lost.
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- According to the present invention a gusseted or block-bottom carrier bag, made from paper, plastics or the like, comprises a hand hole in each of two opposed positions in the opposed bag walls in the region of the upper edge of the bag, with handles stuck or welded on the inside of the front and/or back walls of the bag and projecting into, and lying substantially in the plane of, the adjacent hand hole.
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- Thus, the fixing of the handles is satisfactory from an aesthetic point of view, and the outside of both front and back walls, can be printed with advertising matter which can run without interruption up to the top edge of the bag, at least in the area of the side edges. Preferably, two separate handles or carrying loops are employed. Moreover, the hand hole shape advantageously corresponds to the shape of the handle with a gap between the edges of the opening that surround the handle. Therefore the handles lie practically in one plane with the opening. A further preferred form of construction provides the bag walls adjacent the upper edge of the bag capable of being folded over in the region of the lower edge of the hand hold, and because of this, when the edges of the bag are folded over, that is to say when the bag is closed—the handles protrude in an easily accessible way. Therefore, the handles are easy to grasp when the bag is closed. The handles can be made in the conventional way as "U" shaped bends in paper, cardboard, plastic material, or the like.
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- The advantages gained by the invention are above all to be seen in the fact that according to the principle of the invention a carrier bag can be made which, as well as a handle hole, also has handles which cannot be lost.

Because of this, when the bag is in use, any tearing of the opening is definitely avoided, and the upper edge portion of the bag containing the hand hole itself can have additional uses for purposes of manipulation, for example opening and closing the bag. Added to this is the fact that in a carrier bag according to the invention the handles can be fastened by machine to the insides of the front and or back walls of the bag, so that rational and economic manufacture of bags according to the invention is possible.

The invention will now be described in greater detail, by way of example, with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a carrier bag according to the invention before use; and

Figure 2 is a view similar to Figure 1 but showing a carrier bag in use i.e. with the upper edges folded over.

In the drawings a carrier bag, indicated generally at 1 is provided with a handle hole 3 in the region of the upper edge 2 of the bag. A carrying device 6 is fastened, e.g. by gluing or welding to the inside 8 of the front wall 4 and the back wall 5 of the bag. The carrying device 6 consists of separate handles or carrying loops 7.

As can be seen in Figure 1, each handle 7 protrudes into a hand hole 3, the latter having a shape corresponding to that of the handle 7, with edges 9 of the hand hole 3 surrounding the periphery of the handles 7 but leaving a gap. In the region of the lower edge 9 of the hand hole 3, the upper edge 2 of the bag can be folded over generally along line 10, so that the handles 7 project and are freely accessible when the upper edges 2 are folded about line 10, i.e., when the bag is closed, as can easily be seen from Figure 2. The handles 7

are made in the conventional way as "U" shaped bends from paper, cardboard, plastic material, or the like.

#### WHAT I CLAIM IS:—

1. A gusseted or block-bottom carrier bag, made from paper, plastics or the like, comprising a hand hole in each of two opposed positions in the opposed bag walls in the region of the upper edge of the bag, with handles stuck or welded on the inside of the front and/or back walls of the bag and projecting into, and lying substantially in the plane of, the adjacent hand hole.

2. A carrier bag as in Claim 1, wherein the carrying device consists of two separate handles or carrying loops.

3. A carrier bag as in Claim 1 or Claim 2 wherein the hand hole shape corresponds to the shape of the handle with a gap between the edges of the opening that surround the handle.

4. A carrier bag as in any of the Claims 1 to 3, wherein the bag wall adjacent the upper edge of the bag is capable of being folded over in the region of the lower edge of the hand hole whereby the handle protrudes over the folded edge and is freely accessible when the edges of the bag are folded over.

5. A carrier bag as in any of the Claims 1 to 4, wherein the handles are made in the conventional way as "U" shaped bends from paper, cardboard, plastic material or the like.

6. A carrier bag substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to the accompanying drawings.

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